المجلس الإسلامي
Islamic Council

PRESS RELEASE
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CONDEMNATION OF MUBARAK'S REGIME BEFORE THE INTER-PARLIAMENTARY UNION

In a letter addressed to Mr Michael Marshall,MP, President of the Centenary Conference of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, dated 5 September, Mr Salem Azzam, Secretary General of the Islamic Council, drew the conference's attention to the flouting of the principles of parliamentary democracy by the Egyptian regime. Although claiming to be a parliamentary democracy, Mr Azzam wrote, the regime has been ruling Egypt for more than a decade by emergency laws. In violation of the principles of democracy, it is holding thousands of people in prisons for demanding their rights to freedom of speech, belief and other fundamental human rights. The detainees are routinely tortured, humiliated and harassed. Various human rights groups have investigated the situation and indicted the regime, including Amnesty International whose report entitled 'Egypt, Arbitrary Detention and Torture under Emergency Powers' was published in May 1989.

Mr Azzam hoped that the Inter-Parliamentary Union would use its good offices to prevail upon the Egyptian regime to respect the principles of parliamentary democracy, lift its emergency laws and release all its political detainees.

Mr Azzam also requested the President of the conference to circulate his letter among all the delegates.

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